

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 840  
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to congratulate William Campbell Johnson upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is William Campbell (W. C.) Johnson, who has devoted nearly four decades to the education and instruction of young students and athletes in Tennessee; on March 18, 2006, Mr. Johnson will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame (TSSAA), a recognition most befitting of his outstanding service to Tennessee high schools; and

WHEREAS, W. C. Johnson graduated from Culleoka High School in 1951, where he was a varsity basketball team member; in 1953, he attended Martin Methodist College from 1951 to 1953, and he then went on to receive both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, in 1955 and 1963, respectively; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, W. C. Johnson served his country with courage and distinction in the United States Army from 1955 – 1957; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Coach Johnson commenced his illustrious career in education with Maury County when he accepted positions as a health and physical education teacher and boys' basketball coach at Hay Long High School in Mt. Pleasant. By 1963, he added an eighth-grade team, a freshman team, and a junior varsity team to the program, which expanded to a busy schedule of sixty games under his management; and

WHEREAS, also in the early 1960s, Coach Johnson helped to develop and organize an effective intramural program for Mt. Pleasant High School, a Junior Basketball Tournament for Maury County, and a Little League and Babe Ruth baseball program for the city and community; in addition, he founded and established the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and all of these programs continue to be tremendous successes today; and

WHEREAS, with the closing of Clarke High School in Mt. Pleasant, W. C. Johnson proved instrumental in the consolidation of Clarke and Hay Long High School, which were merged into one in 1968-69 to become Mt. Pleasant High School; and

WHEREAS, although Coach Johnson spent many of the years between 1957 and 1986 without assistant coaches, thanks to his dedication and capable coaching abilities, he maintained a record of 886 victories and 557 losses for all four of his teams, resulting in a percentage of .628 for twenty-nine years; during this period, he led his varsity team to victory in five district championships and three regional championships and made eight State and sub-State appearances; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his other duties, Coach Johnson served as the head coach for the high school baseball team from 1957 through 1972, leading the team to several district and regional championships; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and honors, in the spring of 1982 Coach Johnson was named Mid-State Basketball Coach of the Year after a successful season that earned the Mt. Pleasant varsity a trip to the semi-finals of the State basketball tournament; Coach W. C. Johnson was further lauded in 1996 by all of Maury County when the Mt. Pleasant High School Gymnasium was named in his honor in recognition of his many years of sterling service to the youth of Maury County and for the integral role he played in the planning of the Mt. Pleasant High School Gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, not only is this remarkable man acclaimed for his success as a coach, he is known for his excellence as a teacher and administrator. W. C. Johnson loved teaching health, physical education, and junior high mathematics, and the high school physical education program, which was financed with federal and State grants that he obtained, grew tremendously during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, W. C. Johnson took on the position of Vice Principal in conjunction with his coaching assignment, and by 1986 he had ascended to the position of Principal of Mt. Pleasant High School, from which position he retired in 1996. As an administrator, he served on the Finance Committee and several SACS evaluation teams and also developed a high school computer program that continues to be successful; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Coach Johnson has served as a member of many professional organizations, including the National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Teachers Association, Tennessee Teachers Association, the Maury County Teachers Association, and the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club; he continues to be an active member of the NEA-TEA-MCEA as a retired teacher, serves as a member of the Informative and Protective Service committee, and in 1999-2000 served on the scholarship committee for Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, the significance of W. C. Johnson's dedication to excellence cannot be adequately measured by winning seasons alone; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators still resounds in the community today; and

WHEREAS, he is an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, where he has served as a deacon, chairman of the deacons, and a Sunday school teacher for many years. He is also currently a member of the long range planning committee and the Maury Baptist Crisis team, and during the past six years he has served on the church mission team, building and repairing churches in west and east Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his educational, athletic, and civic endeavors aside, W. C. Johnson has always maintained the highest family values and is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Geraldine Peery Johnson; he is also the loving father of William Campbell Johnson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Coach W. C. Johnson has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, W. C. Johnson, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for

their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic fields or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the induction of Coach William Campbell Johnson into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his substantial legacy as a teacher, administrator, coach, and community servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.